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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/618,684	07/15/2003	Stephen B. Alexander	4450-0386P	5522

33932 7590 04/05/2007

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EXAMINER	
SEDIGHIAN, REZA	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2613	

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
31 DAYS	04/05/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/618,684	ALEXANDER ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	M. R. Sedighian	2613	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *15 July 2003*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-19* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☒ Claim(s) *1-19* are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

Election/Restriction

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

I. Claims 1-16, drawn to an optical device comprised of a photodetector circuit, a serial-to-parallel conversion circuit, a forward error correction encoder circuit, a parallel- to-serial conversion circuit, and an optical emitter. This is classified in class 398, subclass 182.

II. Claims 17-19, drawn to an optical communication device comprising of a plurality of encoders, a plurality of optical emitters, an optical multiplexer, an optical demultiplexer, a plurality of photodetectors, and a plurality of forward error correction decoders. This is classified in class 398, subclass 79.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions I and II are unrelated. Invention are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case the different inventions are unrelated because invention I is related to an optical communication system that is comprised of a photodetector circuit to receive an optical signal and outputting a serial electrical signals, a serial-to-parallel conversion circuit to receive the serial electrical signals and to output electrical signals in parallel, a forward error correction encoder to encode the electrical signals in accordance with a code, a parallel-to-serial conversion circuit to output the electrical signals in serial fashion, and an optical emitter to output optical signals in accordance with the electrical signals. Invention II is directed to an optical communication system that is comprised of a plurality of encoder circuits each receiving respective electrical data signals an outputting

encoded electrical signals in accordance with a Reed-Solomon code, a plurality of optical emitters each emitting light of a respective wavelength in accordance with the encoded electrical signals, an optical multiplexer coupled to the plurality of optical emitters to receive the optical signals and supply the optical signals on an optical communication path, an optical demultiplexer coupled to the communication path to output respective optical channels, a plurality of photodetectors to generate respective electrical signals, and a plurality forward error correction decoders decoding the electrical signals in accordance with a Reed-Solomon code to generate second electrical signals. Inventions I and II are different because invention II does not require a serial-to-parallel conversion circuit for receiving serial electrical signals and to output electrical signals in parallel, a forward error correction encoder circuit coupled to the serial-to-parallel conversion circuit to receive the electrical signals in parallel and to encode the electrical signals in accordance with a code and to generate parallel second electrical signals, and a parallel-to-serial conversion circuit coupled to the forward error correction encoder circuit to output the second electrical signals in a serial fashion.

2. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

3. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the search required for Group I is not required for Group II, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

4. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to M. R. Sedighian whose telephone number is (571) 272-3034. The examiner can normally be reached on 9 to 5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jason Chan can be reached on (571) 272-3022. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

M. R. Sedighian

M. R. SEDIGHIAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER